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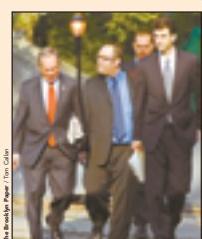
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION

A/W/18 pages • Vol. 30, No. 27 • Saturday, July 14, 2007 • FREE



The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Callan
Mayor Bloomberg, with aides Stu Loeser (center) and Ed Soyer (right) arrives at his temporary City Hall inside the Office of Emergency Management building on Cadman Plaza East in Downtown Brooklyn.

Bloomy does Brooklyn

Mayor works here while City Hall gets new rug

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

City Hall has moved to Brooklyn for two weeks — and Mayor Bloomberg's staffers say they are already thinking better than ever!

A renovation of the city's seat of power that forced the mayor and his staff to leave Downtown Brooklyn for a fortnight at the Office of Emergency Management building on Cadman Plaza East has been "kind of a godsend" in the words of one Bloomberg staffer. The city workers, who speak anonymously from an otherwise secret bench in Cadman Plaza Park across the street from his temporary office, described his experience working in the OEM building as a stone's throw from trendy DUMBO as a welcome respite from the Gucci Gulch of lower Manhattan.

"I think we all kind of like being in a quiet place with fewer people running around in suits," he said. "It helps you think."

And it's doing just that feeling that way.

Bloomberg's press secretary, Stu Loeser, described Brooklyn as an idyllic village away from the "hustle and bustle" of City Hall.

"We're in the middle of the city, but the operations of Brooklyn enjoy less crowds and more space," said Loeser, whose name is pronounced "low-ser," not "loser," despite the fact that he lives in Manhattan.

"It's nice to be near yourself," he said.

Loeser said the mayor was enjoying the escape from Manhattan, particularly because he had been able to find a place to eat that reminded him of Manhattan.

"We stopped for breakfast at the Park Plaza diner across the street from the office. It was pretty good, a little like a diner he likes to go to in his house [on the Upper East Side]."

Over the borrough appeared to agree with the mayor.

"Brooklyn is in the house," he announced.

See **BLOOMY** on page 16

TRADER JOE'S IN THE BANK

Cheeky gourmet to open at Court and Atlantic

**By Gersh Kuntzman, Ariella Cohen
*The Brooklyn Paper***

The job is done: Trader Joe's is coming to Atlantic Avenue.

The long-rumored arrival of the quirky supermarket was heralded on Thursday morning with a bizarre trade featuring Borough Hall's own Markowitz, steel drummers from Downtown boosters, and even the retailer's trademark Hawaiian shirts.

"Brooklynites know a great value when they see one — and now our long wait for our own Trader Joe's is over," said Markowitz. "We're thrilled that the store will be a second home to Brooklyn, will bring more customers to Downtown Brooklyn and residents will have even more choice ... for fresh produce, prepared foods and groceries."

The store will have its chicken wings, organic vegetables, free beer ... but not its famous "Two-Buck Chuck" wine because of city booze laws — from the landmark Independence Savings Bank building at the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue.

The building, now a Sovereign Bank, is owned by Two Trees Management. The Sovereign branch will relocate across Atlantic Avenue into Two Trees'



Borough President Markowitz donned a Trader Joe's Hawaiian shirt on Thursday and danced with a calypso band from Borough Hall to the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue, where the quirky gourmet supermarket will soon open its first Brooklyn store.

Court House building.

Trader Joe's arrival was the latest salvo in a war for the borough's upscale stomachs. This week, the environmentally and socially conscious Whole Foods market announced that its location on Houston Street and the Brooklyn Martini will now deliver to Brownstone Brooklyn and Williamsburg. (For a delivery map, check out www.WholeFoodsMarket.com.)

The charge for delivery — between 10 am and 6 pm — is \$5.95.

The Whole Foods "Gold Zone" in Brooklyn extends all the way from Williamsburg in the north to the very bottom corner of Park Slope — one block from where local rival Union Market is building its second gourmet emporium. The area includes Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill, Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Greenpoint.

Curiously red-lined from Whole Foods' delivery map, however, is Red Hook — possibly because that neighborhood's stomach is already sated by Fairway, which opened its first Brooklyn store last May.

The competition continues, with a competition next year when Whole Foods' first Brooklyn store is expected to open along the banks of the mighty Gowanus Canal in the gentrifying area between Park Slope and Carroll Gardens.



Clones a hit!

Brooklyn's beloved boys of summer, the Brooklyn Cyclones, are off to one of their best starts ever, going 17-10 through Friday, July 13, that's what's key to their place in 2001, when the team won the New York-Penn League championship. Hot-hitting outfielder Will Vogl (left) has been a key part of the Cyclone offense. Check out our complete coverage on page 12.

Yassky: Stop Ratner gravy train

**By Ariella Cohen
*The Brooklyn Paper***

Bruce Ratner will reap a whopping 50-percent profit on his Atlantic Yards investment, a prominent Brooklyn lawmaker charged this week as he called for an end to the massive taxpayer subsidy of the mega-development.

Ratner is telling New York City that they anticipate to make a \$650-million return on a \$1.35-billion investment and that in itself shows that there is absolutely no reason for taxpayers to fund this project, Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights).

The new charge comes after the release of financial documents that Ratner kept from public view until a lawsuit filed by two Al-

bay legislators wrestled them free last month.

The documents reveal the financial inner workings of the 22-acre real estate project — a combination of three private investment, large tax breaks, \$305 million in direct city and state subsidies (so far), below-market-rate costs for Ratner to acquire state-owned land,

and \$1.4 billion in low-interest, tax-exempt federal loans.

Yassky's call for an end to Ratner subsidies comes just two weeks after Mayor Bloomberg — himself a developer of Atlantic Yards — finally broke with Ratner, declaring that the developer "doesn't need" an additional special tax break handed to him.

See **GRAVY** on page 16

and the domes of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

In addition to his daughter, Rogovin is survived by his wife, Katherine, and two other children, Karen Rogovin of Bergen, NJ, and her son, Robert of Flemington, NJ, and five grandchildren: Zosia Knak; Theresa Rogovin and Leah, Rachael Leah and Sara Wentrob.

Paper gets 'Al Qaeda' threat

The Brooklyn Paper

Cops from the 84th Precinct swarmed through the offices of The Brooklyn Paper last week after this newspaper became one of 20 nationwide that received a letter threatening a plot against the New Jersey-based investment giant, Goldman Sachs.

"Our letters, Homeland Security, we are inside. You can't stop us," read the letter, which was written in red ink on lined looseleaf paper.

It was signed "A.Q.U.S.A.," an apparent reference to al Qaeda.

The letter was turned over to the "News Department" of the Downtown News, one of our long-running editions — showed up at our DUMBO office on Friday, June 30. It was opened by Editor Gersh Kuntzman, who didn't think much of the "threat." He did notice that he was not the only one who touched what could be a vital piece of evidence in the nation's war on terror.

"I knew about police work," he said. "I'm on Law & Order," but I still knew the minute I opened it that there would be cops down here fingerprinting everyone who touched that letter," he said. "So I put it aside before anyone else came in contact with it."

"Basically, I took one for the team," Kuntzman quipped.

Cops from the 84th Precinct did indeed fingerprint Kuntzman on Sunday — his day off — and copied the letter into a plain envelope.

The message was later turned over to the FBI, which is investigating why roughly 20 newspapers around the country, all of which were mailed from Queens and The Bronx.

The New York Post, which did not receive the letter, responded that federal law enforcement authorities don't think the threat is serious because of its "non-specific nature." But officially, FBI spokesman James Margolin said that "all threats are taken seriously."

Investigators are looking at fingerprints on the letter and even the saliva on the envelope, which could yield DNA evidence.

"There is a lot of paper in my mouth," Kuntzman said. "I learned that from Cesar New York."

"It's a ridiculous letter," he said.

Goldman Sachs' 44-story Jersey City tower is the tallest building in the Garden State and hosts 3,000 employees.

The company itself did not receive the letter.



The letter received at the office of The Brooklyn Paper.

Harold Rogovin, craftsman, 81, repaired Lady Liberty

The Brooklyn Paper

suffering a stroke in December. He died Saturday.

Prior to moving to Florida in 1987, he lived in New York City and California.

Rogovin was born on March 5, 1926, in the Bronx, the son of Mildred and Leo Rogovin.

In 1964, Rogovin founded B&R Crafts Arts, where he fabric-

Navy in World War II. After attending City College of New York, Brooklyn Polytechnic, and City College, Rogovin began starting his own metal-smithing business.

In 1964, Rogovin founded B&R Crafts Arts, where he fabri-

cated reproductions of antique hardware and brass beat. At that time, the master metalsmith became known as "the man with the three-piece coffee service, a variety of bowls and trays, a candleabra, a spec-

tacular oval-fluted, two-foot punch bowl, which was later used in an exhibition at the New York State Museum.

At that time, he was a student at the Craft Students League, an adjunct professor at Staten Island Community College. He was also one of the team that restored the Statue of Liberty.

and the domes of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

In addition to his daughter, Rogovin is survived by his wife, Katherine, and two other children, Karen Rogovin of Bergen, NJ, and her son, Robert of Flemington, NJ, and five grandchildren: Zosia Knak; Theresa Rogovin and Leah, Rachael Leah and Sara Wentrob.

Chestnut great, but Koby still my hero

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE *By Gersh Kuntzman*
HERO WORSHIP

At the ceremonial weigh-in July 13, Brooklyn's own Bloomberg stood horrified by the site of this legend of the game: this Japanese Jebo-

put — barely able to open his mouth from the pain of his jawfracture.

It was unclear even then whether Koby would compete again.

But compete he did — stunning the world by breaking his own personal record and downing 63 hot dogs in the requisite 12 minutes.

I watched him downing dog after dog, bun after bun with a precision, grace and athleticism he has never shown before, even with a good jaw. Whenever Chestnut jumped ahead, Kobayashi answered back, putting aside whatever pain he felt to push

the limits of human competition.

Sides of Willis Reck, comment off the weigh-in, thought Koby Gibbs limping around the bases after winning Game 1 of the 1988 World Series, or Seabiscuit running on at least two gimp legs.

Afterwards, I spoke to him as only I

know how.

"Kobayashi-san," I said. "Did the jawfracture play any role in your loss to Day?"

"For a true champion doesn't play that game," Kobayashi didn't curse his jaw. He credited Chestnut.

"Gersh-san," he said. "I must tell you, Joey Chestnut is the greatest champion."

He was suggested that his jaw — not Chestnut — was the difference that day.

And that's why he's a legend. And that's why I refuse to wash my Kobayashi-spit-covered referee's shirt.

(His Shroud of Turin.



Former champ Takeru Kobayashi is a mess after falling short by three HDBs.



THE FRANKSTER SPEAKS · CHESTNUT WON'T BE EATING BRAINS: PAGE 14

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Music & Movies Series
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with Live original score to silent Hitchcock film **MORLEY**
Soufflé pop chanteuse

FRI - 7/20 - 7:30
American Express American Roots Series
BOBBY "BLUE" BLAND
CATHERINE RUSSELL
Legendary blues icon / Golden voiced jazz, soul & blues

THURS - 7/26 - 8:00
BILL T. JONES |
Modern dance trailblazer celebrates 25th anniversary

SAT - 7/27 - 7:30
Music & Movies Series
LAUREL & HARDY
with THE MILLENNIAL TERRITORY ORCHESTRA
Classic comedy duo shorts w/original live scores

EZHAN LIPSON
Local story-sing raconteur

SAT - 7/28 - 2:00-9:00
Bad Light Latin Music Series
DAN ZANES & FRIENDS
Family music superstar w/ very special guests

SAT - 7/28 - 7:30
Music & Movies Series
ARNE ZANE DANCE COMPANY
with TITO ROJAS JOE CUBA SEXTET VIENTO DE AGUA DAVID CEDENO & others

SAT - 8/3 - 7:30
Bad Light Music Series
LYRICIST LOUNGE with KRS ONE LADYBUG MECCA BLITZ BEAT ENTERTAINMENT TURNTABLE ANIHLISTS

SAT - 8/4 - 7:30
WBW Concert Series
KASSAV'
Founding fathers of zouk music. BONGA High priest of Haitian drumming

SATURDAY July 14

SUNDAY July 15

WEDNESDAY July 18

THURSDAY July 19

FRIDAY July 20

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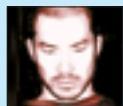
July 14,

WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY

July 14



Get hooked

Take a trip off the mainland tonight at the "Sunset Music Series" aboard the Lehigh Valley Barge in Red Hook. Tonight you can catch the cello-drum combo Take-nobu (pictured) as well as the foxy sounds of Lara Ewan and the Unstrung Orchestra.

8 pm at the Waterfront Museum (at the foot of Court Street), Red Hook. \$15 in advance, \$10 at the door. For information, call (877) 238-5596 or visit www.waterfrontmuseum.org.

SUNDAY

July 15



Have a ball

At today's Baseline Day celebration on Smith Street, Bar Tabac will sponsor the annual petanque tournament where up to 80 teams will compete on 14 courts in the French-style bocce ball. Prizes include tee shirts, trophies and, above all else, glory.

Noon on Smith Street between Bergen and Pacific streets. Free. For information, call (718) 652-0228.

8 pm at the Waterfront Museum (at the foot of Court Street), Red Hook. \$15 in advance, \$10 at the door. For information, call (877) 238-5596 or visit www.melrestaurant.com.

WEDNESDAY

July 18



See food

Lobster always seems to have an astronomical price — a few chunks mixed with mayo and tossed on a hot dog roll can fetch \$25. But on Wednesday night at Melt, a one-pound Maine lobster is being served for \$10, which won't even get you tuna in other restaurants. Stop in before they change their mind.

5 pm on at Melt (440 Bergen St., at Fifth Avenue in Boerum Hill), \$14. For information, call (718) 230-5925 or visit www.melrestaurant.com.

THURSDAY

July 19



DUMBOle

Tonight the General Store overhauls their normal menu of sandwiches and salads for "Hecho en DUMBO," a "rare sampling of authentic Mexican antojitos," which are small plates of Mexican grub like corn tacos, crabmeat pancakes and taquitos. We'll extend the two-for-one margaritas and a plate of the fresh made guacamole.

7 pm - 1 am at the General Store (111 Front St., at Washington Street in DUMBO). For information, call (718) 855-5268 or visit www.hechosendumblo.com.

FRIDAY

July 20



Hop, skip and a...

Nine artists spanning three generations present "The Art of the Painting," which is currently up at the Henry Gregg Gallery. These paintings and sculptures display the different styles and processes of the artists and dares observers to jump into the work themselves.

11 am - 6 pm at the Henry Gregg Gallery (111 Front St., at Washington Street in DUMBO). For information, call (718) 408-1090 or visit www.henrygregggallery.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JULY 14

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

EARLY BIRD WALK: At Prospect Park during the day, 10 am to 4 pm, start at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 638-7200.

CANCEL THE LULLABY: Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitat. To 10 pm, \$15. Call (718) 638-7200, Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400, free.

PEDAL BOAT: Rent a Cruise Brooklyn's freshwater lake in a pedal boat. \$15 for one hour, plus \$5 per additional person. Noon to 5 pm. Prospect Park, between the Parkside and Ocean avenue entrance. www.cruisebrooklyn.com.

BROOKLYN BRIDGE WALK: Big Onion Walking Tours offers an introduction to the history of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Brooklyn Bridge and through the city's first suburb housing on the history, architecture, and people of Brooklyn. \$15, \$10 seniors, \$10 students, 1 pm. Meet at the southeast corner of the bridge at the base of the street, between Second and Third avenues. (718) 638-7200.

AUTHOR READING: Tabitha Glass presents "Dreamed My People Were Calling" But I Couldn't Find My Way Home" with author Dorothy Allison. 7 pm, Smith and Union Street, between Second and Third avenues. (718) 638-7200.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY: Big Onion Walking Tours offers an introduction to the history of Greenwood Cemetery, the city's largest landmarked cemetery. Stops include the graves of Andrew Carnegie, Louis Armstrong, and Duke Ellington. \$12 seniors, \$10 students, 5 pm. Meet at Fifth Avenue and 45th Street. (718) 638-7200.

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DANCERS IN THE PARK: presents "Strange Fruit: Swunkt" a 20-minute performance on swings, 4 pm, 6 pm and 8 pm on the lawn at Empire Fulton Ferry State Park. (718) 638-5603, free.

WEEKSVILLE SUMMER SERIES: Today, "Mariachi de la Familia" performs at the Park between Rochester and Buffalo avenues. (718) 756-5250, free.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: 29th annual event presents The Brooklyn Philharmonic with Merce Cunningham. Performances include works by Copland, Grove and Ullman. 7 pm, 8 pm, 9 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge. (718) 638-7200, free.

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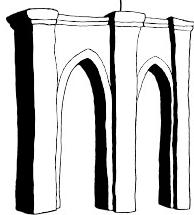
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July 14, 2007

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THE stoop

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DOWNTOWN DUMBO

Alternate side of street park

The mystery "illegal" parker of Pierpoint Street has broken his silence! To me! Exclusively!

In my last column, I reported on the controversy surrounding alleged parking on Pierpoint Street in Brooklyn Heights. The problem is still there along the strip between Henry and Hicks Streets that the Brooklyn Heights Association and Community Board 1 have been trying to figure out whether some drivers are misusing their permit parking privileges.

BHA Executive Director Judy Small claims that drivers government employees park with "impunity" often "storing" their cars over the weekend on Pierpoint. As a result, nearly two dozen BHA members took to the street earlier this year to write down license plates of many of the offenders.

But this week, one of the owners of a said cars spoke out on the Brooklyn Heights Blog. And the owner, neighborhood attorney and disabled advocate TK, small, says he was outraged by it.

"I am one of the individuals who parks with a permit on Pierpoint Street in 'flagrant disregard' of the regulations," Small said. "Clearly people do not know what they are talking about! As a New Yorker with a disability, I have had a New York City issued 'parking permit for people with disabilities' since 1997. The regulations and laws on the back of the permit are perfectly clear in stating where it is valid."

Small says that the BHA's assertion that positively no one with a permit may park in the Heights' "No Parking" areas is incorrect.

"I don't know what law school they went to," Small said, adding that he respects BHA members "scribbling down" his license plate number in their attempt to catch other violations. He adds that "by me parking on the 'No Parking' side of the street, they have more opportunities to park on the other side."

The cantankerous Small reached fever-pitch as he poked a hole in the argument that "No Parking" zones are "there for street-cleaning purposes."

"The streets in Brooklyn Heights are filthy. People don't realize how great it is."

He's perplexed as to why residents -- and the Brooklyn Heights Association -- don't "worry about things that are more important." He also fears that the battle of Pierpoint Street is merely the first salvo in the BHA's real goal of eliminating personal parking.

If you want to go to the next step, let's just put a gate around the neighborhood," Small argued.

But before that imaginary (or real?) gate goes up, Heights folks still have more complaining to do over the parking quagmire that's overtaken the Pierpoint parking has long-time Sen. Martin Golden (D-Brooklyn Heights) engrossed in the "parking patrol's" crosshairs.

When asked about his own alleged misuse of his parking permit in the "No Parking" area of Pierpoint, Councilman says that he's "not a permit holder" and therefore doesn't need his car. He usually parks in a garage on Love Lane, which closes at 1 a.m. However, when the senator was caring for his sick mother in April, he felt he needed all-day access to his vehicle, so he parked it with a temporary permit.

Homer Fink is published by Brooklyn Heights Blog.

The Brooklyn Paper is affiliated with Brooklyn Heights Blog.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Five Guys Burgers & Fries — a national chain — is now open in Brooklyn Heights. Gianluca Moretti, a Heights resident and publisher of the Ready to Order Guide, said he loved his burger and hot dog, but took issue with the chain's tradition of allowing customers to toss shells from the paper on the floor. "Where exactly is the fun of eating?" he asked. "The place is clean, but the shells were not being cleaned that they should put a sign saying, 'Please don't do the same on the street!'" ... Speaking of Montague Street, with hipster sundries store like **Ricky's & Korres** opening soon, we're going to be overjoyed. Tip gloom: **Super soggy Clean Scales** — a self-explanatory art exhibit, Skill Flyer sponsored by the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists' Coalition (BWAC), will be on display at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park until Aug. 29. ... Ran into **Bear Ratner**, he had to kiss lots of **Loren Redman** (of **Floyd NY**) on Avenue C. We're told she's all headed to Italy for vacation. You know what? He's a nice guy! This rule is posted at **Clarks Corner Diner** across from the ... stay tuned. No laptops.

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Park or parking? DUMBO decides



A parking area on Pearl Street in DUMBO became a sitting area.

By Chris Casciaro
For the Brooklyn Paper

The once trash-strewn parking lot at Pearl and Washington Streets in DUMBO has been transformed into what many may say will become a neighborhood hangout, but others feel it isn't worth the valuable parking spaces it is sitting on.

With little fanfare late last month, workers from the Department of Transportation converted the former parking lot into a dining area with a dozen tables, tables and chairs in just three days.

The reaction was even faster.

"People used to dumpy sandwiches and work here," said Jamie Walker, an artist whose workplace was cleared out.

"It's a great idea," said Barnaby Furman, who has lived in DUMBO for nearly two decades, "but the bridge is just too loud for this to be a restful place."

Local business leaders dismissed the criticism that DUMBO is a neighborhood issue that is far beyond parking.

"The parking in DUMBO was designed for industry," said Tuck Reed, director of the DUMBO Improvement District. "It all needs to be re-done anyway."

People don't realize how great it is," he said.

He added, "I think it's a great idea."

"It's a great idea," said Barnaby Furman, who has lived in DUMBO for nearly two decades, "but the bridge is just too loud for this to be a restful place."

Local business leaders dismissed the criticism that DUMBO is a neighborhood issue that is far beyond parking.

"The parking in DUMBO was designed for industry," said Tuck Reed, director of the DUMBO Improvement District.

While messengers' disdain for lane constraints and traffic signals may seem hazardous, riders often insist that they have a safe place to stop and turn, maneuvering cabs and bad drivers.

Reyes said he gave up messengering after having nightmares of hitting by busses. But he still races to get his fix.

"You never live, be paralyzed, mangled or killed in limb," he said. Then he added with a smile:

"It's all about how much you're willing to risk."

The DUMBO alleycat race is on Saturday, July 21. Visit www.nybma.com for information.

No braking for alleycats

By Rachel Corbett
For the Brooklyn Paper

DUMBO's quaint cobblestone streets will be taken over by a new breed of racing: cracking bike messengers in a ringed "alleycat" race.

At 2 pm, 50-100 young men, a few women, fewer helmets and plenty of tattoos will speed away from the starting line near the corner of Plymouth and Washington Streets.

Organizers only intervene since "alleycat" details are kept secret until the day of the race, riders determine their own routes and the unanticipated events are publicized through flyers, MySpace and word of mouth.

But the world could change, if the riders' attitudes are any indication.

"Normally, I'm pretty safe, but when I do this, I go completely nuts," said 26-year-old Miguel Reyes.

With few rules, the race depends on speed, strategy and important fearlessness.

These days, Austin Horne, 25, may be the reigning madman, recently winning the "Rumble Through the Bronx" race.

The DUMBO alleycat is one of Horse's fa-

vorites because of its hills and rugged terrain.

Last year, some riders avoided the cobblestone in favor of dodging pedestrians on the sidewalks, but Horse toughed it out: "I got a flat tire right at the beginning, so I rode the whole race on a flat and still won."

Riders push the boundaries of traffic laws, but local authorities have not done much to challenge the races.

"It's just 50 or so people riding bikes through the neighborhood. I don't really see a problem," said Tuck Reed, executive director of the DUMBO Improvement District.

While messengers' disdain for lane constraints and traffic signals may seem hazardous, riders often insist that they have a safe place to stop and turn, maneuvering cabs and bad drivers.

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Center moving next to precinct

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

A homeless outreach center, which sparked complaints of drug-addicts shooting up on brownstone stoops and homeless people using vestibules as toilets, is moving to a less problematical location.

The Salvation Army "drop-in" center, at 39 Bond St., between Livingston and State Streets, in Downtown, will move to 100 Bond St. this month, to Tillary and Gold streets, according to Laura DeBuys, a spokeswoman for the Salvation Army, which operates the center for the city's Department of Homeless Services.

"We have a facility better suited to our program," said DeBuys of the site, which is around the corner from several hundred units of low-income condos that are now occupied.

The move away from Bond Street will come as welcome news to residents of nearby State Street, a couple of whom showed up at a recent 84th Precinct Community Council meeting to complain.

"There are all kinds of crime on State," between Hoyt and Bond, which most people attribute to the intake center, said John Fischer, a State Street resident.

"One woman found a guy in her entryway shooting up drugs, another found someone using the vestibule as a latrine, and envelopes are back on the sidewalks. People are using our stoops to drop off packages."

The drop-in center has been around since 1997, and offers three meals a day, entitlement assistance, recreation, individual and group therapy, and job placement services.

DeBuys said she only started hearing complaints recently. "The neighborhood has changed over the years."

Her comments stand in stark contrast of an older neighbor, George Miller, half the couple that found the man shooting up in the vestibule. He said the center has been a problem for years.

"The police response is very good," said Rover. "But because of the drop-in center, there's a lot of homeless, mentally ill people. It's gotten much worse over the past three years."

Police said they're aware of the center.

"We are there constantly," said Lt. Gary Williams of the 84th Precinct. "We are doing every we can."

Meanwhile, the drop-in at the 84th Precinct, the new site for the drop-in center is directly next door to their Gold Street stationhouse.

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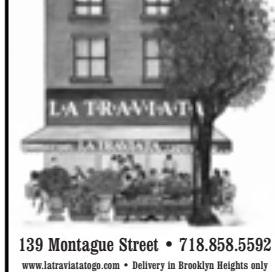
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THE stoop

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL
RED HOOK

Taking a bite out of Smith St

Say goodbye to sore gums, and any semblance of sanity on the new Smith Street!

The gods of gentrification have finally given Boerum Hill the powers exact what they wanted for their luxury brownstones — and it's \$2,000-a-month teneatments: a luxury toothbrush!

The Radius Scuba brush — now selling for a pop-up Organic Market on the corner of Smith and Bergen streets — is a behemoth in the small world of high-end dentistry. It is known for its extraordinary 60-degree angle and artfully wide head that "flexes back and forth to remind us to reduce the pressure of brushing," according to the company's Web site.

Hot dog! That's not a lot of lingo for a basic hygienic tool invested by a guy in a jell with a spare chicken bone and some crinkle-wedged in his teeth.

Such a toothbrush sticks in some craws worse than that bone.

"You could get you 10 pounds of chicken legs or a steak for the price of this toothbrush," says Peter Paisanos, owner of the Kosher Meat Market, a silver-haired soldier of Smith Street's old guard.

Of course, Paisanos is not so uthis to modern marketing trends that he didn't offer a discount to spending \$50 on a toothbrush.

He's not the only one: the street's deep-pocketed shoppers spend their \$12 on his trademark Los Paisanos Oven and Grill sauce, instead of the costly cavity fighter.

"You could get two jars for that price," he said.

One day, though, Tony Gonzalez of Tony's Hardware, pointed out that a lifetime's supply of vials could be had for less than the cost of one toothbrush.

"People are going to think the way they do," said Gonzalez, "but a guy will come in and buy a dozen toothbrushes for \$5 and complain that my \$2.99 valve is too expensive. The valve will keep your water flowing for years and the valve will be open in 15 minutes."

You can find a standard valve in a 99-cent store for, well, 99 cents. It's not clear if the American Dental Association endorses "Better living through dentistry" suggests a new toothbrush every three months. Scuba users will spend around \$40 a year to keep their teeth clean than the person who can't afford the basic model.

No one is more surprised by the popularity of the \$11 toothbrush than Mohammad Abdulla, co-owner of Smith Organics Market and their displaced tenants and their displaced tenants.

"Most people would say [a toothbrush should be] cheap, but some people love to buy name," he said. "It's a dog in his green-shenned bedspac and pointing towards a rack of sweet-smelling 'reconstructive' toothbrushes and embellished floss-wands charged with 'anti-aging' capabilities."

"It would be wrong to ask them why they are willing to pay more for it," Abdulla said.

One peal-sounding customer, Cynthia Lane, presented the toothbrush as an indulgence for a good, gassy, like a candy cupcake or a veggie cookie: enjoyable, overpriced and easily rationalized.

"It seems good for you," Lane said.

Joy Deering of Boerum Hill was afraid to defend his spending habits.

"I was destined on my friend's couch and one day I gave him a 10-dollar bill to pick me up a toothbrush," Deborg said. "I expected \$8, but he ended up having to pay \$2 more and getting [the toothbrush]. It was so good I never stopped using it."

That was a year ago.

Deborg, who has moved onto another's couch by now, said that the fancy brus makes him feel rich.

Ariella Cohen is a staff reporter at The Brooklyn Paper.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Tops for *Liberty Heights Top Room*: Red Hook's underground rock club and brewery has been sold to **Chris Byrne**, frontman of the (slightly overripe) rock band Black Jack and owner of Rock City. Byrne, who has been a fan of the space since he was 12, will be opening it up again in September. On the other hand, a little four-leaf clover of fortune just hit the **Red Hook Food vendors**, who will be visiting on Saturday, July 14, by celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse of the Food Network show, "Emeril Live." The spicing-up TV chef will be tapping a segment of the show from the basement bar of the Red Hook Food Vendors. On the show, he'll be sharing some of the things he's learned ... and into our pals from **Sambazon**, the makers of delicious treats from Brazil's beloved açaí (pronounced ah-sah-ee) berry, at the Fancy Food and Confection show in the Center this week. They're bringing their **Stubbiz** Fairway to the fair, offering such a deal on their sorbet and juice: three pints of sorbet for \$10 or two bottles of juice for \$5. It's more expensive than Coke, but does a can of Coke "real live" taste? 30% more anti-oxidants as a plus. And while we're at the fair, we discovered that **Stubbiz** batcher shop Counter Street is the only place in Brooklyn where you can get those delectable Twin Hen chicken pot pies.

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Nora and Mateo Vidal help out at their parents' store, Woofs 'n Whiskers, on Summit Street in the Columbia Street Waterfront District. But for how long?

Dogs and costumes and shrubbery — oh, my!

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

A dog's life is not always a walk in the park. In fact, it's a walk in the park.

In this case, the displaced tenants are not the needy, sick or the homeless, but pampered cats and dogs, fancy costumes, and lush foliage.

The city is now considering a rezoning from developer LLI Realty to rezone a manufacturing-only block of Summit Street between Van Brunt and Columbia Hall, LLI Realty argued that the zoning change would allow for appropriate uses such as a pet retreat, Gowanus Nursery and a design company called Composition Studio now thrive.

The developer plans to build a four-story building with 35 units

— some of which would be eligible for tax breaks designed to create below-market-rate housing.

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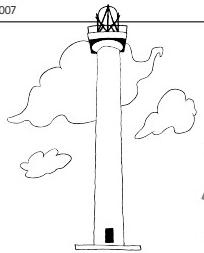
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July 14, 2007

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DTZ (FGCH) 3



THE STOOP

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

Thou shalt not make a noise

Flying in the face of one of the commandments of city governance — thou shall not offend religious institutions — the city is following through on its April promise to tear down a Clinton Hill church whose members seem to believe that their faith in God allows them to float eerily above the law.

The City Department of Buildings confirmed that belief in a higher being does not render one above the law by filing a Criminal Court summons against the owners of Celestial Church of God on Atlantic Avenue, between Myrtle and Park avenues.

Neighbors of the Nigerian Baptist church were pleased.

Since moving to their Clinton Avenue home just behind the site of the demolished church earlier this year, actress Geena Librandi have been battling the church as though their souls — or at least, their sanity — depended on it.

According to the couple and other area residents, the church has had a rather un-neighboring practice of hosting all-day, uninterrupted Christian services in a building zoned for residential use and equipped with little soundproofing. And it's been going on for 15 years.

"They're just terrible neighbors," said Bowen.

But the city isn't the only ones here to take on a church as welcome news to Derek Anrujo, executive director of the Center for Inquiry, which advocates for church-state separation.

"It's becoming more and more of a problem throughout the country, where you see churches challenging generally applicable zoning laws and seeking religious exemptions," said Anrujo.

"It's definitely inappropriate for them to expect special treatment just because they're the religious community," he added. "But because of the special treatment, perhaps they're come to expect special treatment."

Anrujo has a point. After all, look at the city's move just two years ago to ban parking-meter fees on Sunday, a practice opponents derided as "the pay to pray" policy.

In reinstating the ban, a near-unanimous City Council overrode Mayor Bloomberg's veto, knowing that religious leaders lost an estimated \$12 million in revenue, and upheld the notion that prayerful activity is something of a valuable use than other pursuits.

But perhaps this church's violations of city laws were just too bothersome to ignore.

After all, as of April, the owners of the church had received about \$20,000 for violations accrued over the past decade, according to city records.

Angela Brown, who handles community affairs for the church, said she couldn't comment for this article.

But in April, he told The Brooklyn Paper that Brown's complaints were simply not true. He also called one of his neighbors "obsessive."

"Whatever information you received is incorrect," he said. "She should accommodate us as we accommodate them. We are here to do our services and we don't disturb anybody."

The highest authority, of course, will be the court.

Dana Rubinstein is a reporter at The Brooklyn Paper.

ON OUR OTHER STOOP

PAGES

NIGHT ST. late June

BOERUM HILL An \$11 toothbrush

BAY RIDGE Ratner's ghost

DUMBO Peirce's new look

online at BrooklynPaper.com

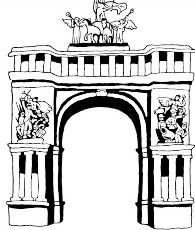
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PSZ 3



THE stoop

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON

Plaza must be really 'Grand'

Grand Army Plaza is about to undergo a massive facelift and public reaction couldn't be more, well, um, confused.

As reported in the Brooklyn Paper a week ago, the Grand Army Plaza Coalition, a citizens group, wants to calm traffic in the bustling circle by eliminating some roadways, transforming it into two-way streets and giving pedestrians the upper hand over cars. It's a sensible plan: for one — after all, the traffic circle has long been one of the most dangerous intersections and the public hasn't been able to truly experience the majesty of the Civil War memorial and recently restored Bailey Fountain in years — but convincing people that isn't always as easy as it sounds. A recent 10-journalist panel at Grand Army Plaza agreed with our exclusive schematic of the GAPOCO plan from our June 30 front page. First reactions from people — even those who traverse the circle every day — ranged from squint-eyed confusion to mouth-opened facials.

In short, the plan calls for the elimination of the roadway that connects Union Street to Eastern Parkway, and the simultaneous transformation of Prospect Park West and the portion of Flatbush Avenue that runs through the circle into two-way streets.

The plan also calls for eliminating all but one exit from Prospect Park roadway at Grand Army Plaza and enter the circle.

Not everyone last con-

fused some people. Phil Marriott, a Park Sloper, took a few minutes to really grasp the beauty of the proposal.

"A two-way traffic circle?" he said. "I've never seen that." But after studying all the plans ebb and flows, Marriott was convinced. "If they eliminated that road, I'd never get in and Eastern Parkway, it could eliminate the traffic that backs up all the way down Union Street to Seventh Avenue. When I real-

ly look at it, it looks like the circle will indeed be safer. Won't it be like it is now, but without the cars and the Arc de Triomphe with those insane drivers."

Alex, who describes himself as a mom with two kids and a minivan, who is always driving through that circle, also balked at the "center-intimate" idea of introducing traffic. But then, she added, "When you get over the shock, you realize it's kind of beautiful."

It's more than that, says one of the plan's backers, transportation activist Aaron Narinsiek. Computer simulations done in 1999 show that the redesign would run fluidly. And changing the direction of streets and filling in empty areas with greenery is an inexpensive and simple way of changing a problem, added GAOCO member Robert Orlandi.

The other day, one partier said anything would be better than the less-than-grand Army Plaza. "I had to cross six streets so my kids could play in the fountain," said Jonathan Gold of Kensington.

Chris Casciano, a student at Columbia College in Chicago, is a summer intern at The Brooklyn Paper.

ON OUR OTHER stoop

DUMBO
Pearl's new look →
BOERUM HILL
An artful refurbish
BAY RIDGE
Rather's ghost
FORT GREENE
Another find
CROWN HEIGHTS
Arrested arrested
onlineatBrooklynPaper.com



Chris Casciano



New paint is laid down last week on Ninth Street, providing for a bike lane and left-turn bays. Here, all three types of users follow the new configuration. Alas, it's not perfect: At press time, the city had not removed the old paint yet.

Ninth St makes way for bikes

By Michael McLaughlin
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Department of Transportation kept its word and, almost overnight, added bike lanes to Ninth Street in Park Slope last week.

The bike lanes, which were painted from Prospect Park West to Third Avenue, were painted on Friday. To make room for them, the DOT eliminated one lane in each direction.

Unfortunately, the DOT did not immediately remove the old road markings right away, which created some minor snarls.

"I haven't seen any problems, but there's a bit of confusion out there over which line to follow," said Craig Hamerman, district manager of Community Board 6.

The street was free of apparent problems on a recent weekday morning and it was no surprise to see a biker praising the new layout.

"I bike down Ninth Street every morning,"

said Amy Herrick. "I'm happy about it, because it gives me a lane that's just for me. I hope it continues to grow."

The city is making it easier for bikers to ride on the streets. As part of Mayor Bloomberg's long-term green vision, the city will paint 1,200 new miles of bike lanes, up from just 400 miles currently.

Bike lanes are good for the environment. The bicycle trails on Ninth Street mean that people in cars are now confined to one lane on each side of the street.

The bike lanes was a much better flow of traffic, argued Eric Daly.

Daly's complaint might mean things are going according to plan. One of the department of Transportation's stated goals in adding bike lanes was to reduce auto speeds on the lightly used roadway. There were 274 crashes along Ninth Street between 2004 and 2006.

One driver appreciated the safety that

comes from separating the two-wheeler from the four-wheeler.

"I prefer an extra couple of feet is nice," he said.

But the bike lanes might have unintended consequences for people making deliveries.

"I hate them, because I get tickets for double parking in the bike lanes," said Orlando Orlandi, of Park Slope.

Orlandi's attitude holds greater sway west of Sixth Avenue, where Ninth Street becomes far more commercial than it is near Prospect Park. In fact, many delivery trucks block the bike lane, just as they did before the lane was painted.

The situation provided a flashback to the controversial bike lane plan that the DOT announced the bike lane plan this year. The proposal sparked an unexpectedly heated debate in CB6, which eventually ended the plan by a narrow majority in May after several contentious meetings.

'Block' busted building is on sale

By Matt Hampton
for The Brooklyn Paper

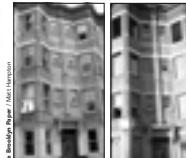
A Dean Street site, of a bizarre attempt to sell in a family that was living there.

The building at 499 Dean St., in Prospect Heights, made headlines last September, when then-owner Marc Scheiner started demolition even though the Barretos family was interested in buying it.

As reported in The Brooklyn Paper, the family avoked one morning to discover construction crews cinder-blocking every window in the building, with the exception of theirs, in an attempt to force out the family.

The cinder blocks were finally removed this spring. The building itself is still in shambles from the attempted demolition, however, which explains why Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner is asking \$2.2 million for the five-story building as a unique fixer-upper close to where the mostly luxury Atlantic Yards development is slated to rise.

For now, they still live in the building, although the other units are just shells, replete with missing sheetrock, plumbing and other necessities.



The building at 499 Dean St., bricked over in September (right) is for sale (current view, left).

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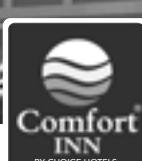
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LETTERS

Longfellow deserves serenade, not dishonor

To the editor,

I was under the mistake to dismiss the proposal to rename PS 94 from the Henry Longfellow School to the "School of Diverse Languages and Cultures" as an act of "political correctness." ("Schools' names on Longfellow," June 23). But Charles O'Connell laments the "all-too-American practice of forgetting the past" while forgetting himself that the past is based on his own version of political correctness, which, in this case, promoted a Eurocentric vision of our country.

While I don't expect to see Frederick Douglass on the dollar bill any time in the near future, small achievements like reminding students that they are part of a culturally vibrant society should not be discounted as mere window dressing.

David Turman, Cobble Hill

To the editor,

I was disappointed in your recent article about the requested name change at PS 94.

The article was far too subjective or the result of a newspaper's Plumb-like "crash course" of political correctness" and "the jargon name change" have no place in a news article. As the old adage goes, journalism should not tell.

If you're so convinced that the name "School of Diverse Languages and Cultures" is jargon, you should trust that that will be clear to your readers from the article itself, without your having to add the label.

That said, the proposed new name is certainly relevant to the current student body. PS 94 works hard to educate immigrant children in the language of its students while integrating them into a single community. The school has embraced dual-language education and now even English speakers learn another language while helping immigrant children learn English. PS 94 offers dual-language programs in both Spanish and Chinese, the only schools in the city to do so. In an international city like New York, I feel that every child should learn a second language, and I appreciate PS 94 for making that possible for the sake of immigrants. Longfellow would surely agree.

Mary-Powell Thomas, Boerum Hill
The writer is president of the Community Board 15 Civic Council for District 15

No, she's wrong!

To the editor,

Your letter writer Amanda Sawyer of Park Slope recently complained about the new businesses in her neighborhood, one of which I have a particular interest in ("Wrong on

Why no love?

To the editor,

If the Brooklyn Paper would look beyond its own shallow interpretation, they might see that what is happening at 345 Eldert St. in Bushwick is really a cultural celebration of the spirit of July 4, not some leftist cry against corporations ("Their Independence Day," June 14). The July 4th holiday has long been attributed redefined themes of American culture for the event which is lacking today, as American culture loses itself to the noise, rhetoric and fears of terrorism propagated by corruption.

Do we not remember the majority of individuals who are trying to live differently, people who may express common concerns about economic freedom? And is it not the Brooklyn Paper in the end really just serving the same old mentality again?

Now, more than ever, we need freedom of thought, liberty, and expression, not another medium that attacks differences. Kudos to the artists of United Studios of Elder.

Editor's note: No offense intended. This newspaper always stands strongly in defense of freedom of expression, as our letters column demonstrates.

Fourth Ave., June 23)

I am the wife of the owner of Mule-Cafe and I can assure you that our garden has never been packed with drinkers on a weekend evening.

My husband puts in many hours trying to maintain a viable business in this dangerous street and often closes the place himself.

We are not open past midnight and have never had a loud crowd in our garden.

We are sensitive to our neighbors' concerns, and, as a result, have yet to receive a phone call or complaint about our business.

I cannot speak for Cherry Tree, another establishment Sawyer cited, but am familiar with them as neighbors. I would not be surprised if they would be equally as request to shut down their outdoor噪音.

Cafes, bars, restaurants and city life go hand in hand and I do believe with proper communication there is much room for living harmoniously.

Tara Sansone, Park Slope

And so is he!

To the editor,

Your letters section recently featured a missive from Mark Brennan of Park Slope recently complained about the new businesses in her neighborhood, one of which I have a particular interest in ("Wrong on



Make plaza Grand

To the editor,

I am sorry to see that someone is trying to bring order to the chaos that is Grand Army Plaza ("The Squared Circle," June 30-July 7). Somehow though, there doesn't seem to be an understanding of what actually goes on in the plaza — and, as such, the proposed solutions only create equally disastrous ones. For example, when the G train travels up Union Street to Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue if there is no direct route to these streets? They'll probably head up St. Johns Place. And then what's to become of even more dangerous conditions?

I suspect that the willingness of the city to work on Grand Army Plaza with the transit authority is due to focusing on the more serious traffic problems on Flatbush, Atlantic and Fourth avenues, problems that the Department of Transportation has ignored since at least 1998 and whose solutions extend all the way into Manhattan.

The city must reform its ways of helping transportation and watch closely as these problems are being exacerbated by all the development in Downtown Brooklyn and especially by the proposed mega-development of Atlantic Yards.

Bob Rodriguez, Bushwick

It's no payoff'

To the editor,

If you had done a little research in your recent story about the Khalil Gibran Academy ("Boerum Hill school gets Gibson payoff," June 30), you would have known that these "perks" are not "rewards" by any stretch of the imagination.

In fact, the Department of Education is doing its best to make the School Construction Authority actually builds a long-planned and already funded technology lab in our school.

The school administration requested that the job done instead caused the school to cancel its technology program altogether last year. Promising to get the lab built is not a "reward"; it is simply doing what they were supposed to have done all along.

The reason that the Parent-Teacher Association insisted that the Depart-

ment of Education put its promises into writing was to make the agency accountable for so many broken promises.

Perhaps that should have been the theme of your article. Why don't parents trust the Department of Education, the entity responsible for educating our children?

ALL DRAWN OUT

AIRPORT KATZMAN... OR SHOULD I SAY AL KATZMAN. YOUR PRINTS ARE ALL OVER THIS LETTER. THAT MAKES OUR THEME SUBJECT. WHERE WERE YOU JULY 4TH?



Cartoon by

ment of Education put its promises into writing was to make the agency accountable for so many broken promises.

If repairs really need to be done to stations before an F express can be a reality, then the G line should be extended to Coney Island and the F line could skip some stops.

As it is now, every time the G train gets to Smith/ Ninth Street, many passengers are left waiting for the F train — and most of the times it is regular eight or 10 cars.

One more thing: the G line and the F line are the worst lines in the subway system. The G line is always waiting for the F line instead of the regular eight or 10 cars.

The worst lines in the subway system happen to be in the most populated borough of New York City. The people of Brooklyn deserve better.

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John Gilbert, Jr., Boerum Hill

Send a letter

By e-mail: Letters@brooklynpaper.com
By mail: Letters Editor, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

By fax: (718) 834-9278.

By post: Letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and address will be published in the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

Fool partier

To the editor,

I am sorry to say have some differences on Atlantic Yards, but in general I have been supportive of the arena and the affordable housing that Brooklyn Ringers proposed to build. But the last hearing in FCR on the state legislature has appealed. You have always been a staunch supporter of affordable housing. I ask you take a principled stand on this matter. Tell Governor Spitzer that he needs to move for Atlantic Yards is really beyond any reason. Even ACORN, one of the biggest supporters of Atlantic Yards, has called for a "no vote" for Raiser "tax-payer" policy because it provides hundreds of millions in tax money for luxury housing.

Enough is enough. The legacy of Atlantic Yards will be diminished if the state legislature fails to pass the bill and tell the legislature to pass 42-a reform without this boondoggle for Raiser.

Katie Lief, Cobble Hill

Smells a Ratner

To the editor,

After the Assembly ruined an otherwise worthy extension of the 421a law by including special breaks for Atlantic Yards and Bruce Ratner ("Bruce Boost," June 30), I wrote the

letter to the editor.

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Sidney Meyer, Boerum Hill

Express now!

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 14, 2007

Sketched out

'Local' writer Brian Wood sees the borough's comic value

By Chris Varnus

For The Brooklyn Paper

Some people are drawn to Brooklyn, but in the case of Park Slope-based comic book artist Brian Wood, the borough is drawn to him.

What Wood is perhaps best known for is "DMZ" — shorthand for demilitarized zone — a comic that explores a war-torn and deeply mysterious New York. Sandwiched between two sides of a civil war between the "Free States" (New Jersey and what lies westward) and the "United States of America" (Brooklyn and Long Island), Manhattan becomes a staging ground for countless tales of bloodshed.

Wood travels through the city with cookie photojournalist protagonist Matty Roth, hitting Red Hook, DUMBO and Park Slope along the way. And life goes on. No one in the war zone is forced to eat rats or pigeons. In fact, they grow organic gardens on their rooftops and live blissfully.

"DMZ" reflects real divisions in our country and society, because Brian is incredibly knowledgeable and aware [of] cultural and political events," said James Lucas, Wood's editor at comic publisher Oni Press. "He's just tapped into it."

Wood arrived at the medium relatively late, when he was already an art student at Parsons in 1997. "I walked blindly into a comic shop," he said, "and suddenly I saw that comics weren't the pulpy stuff from my childhood, but had evolved into a mature and



Stoop-er hero: Park Slope's Brian Wood, as imagined in "DMZ's" world, has immortalized the borough in his comic books.

Illustrated by Brian Wood

sophisticated medium."

Inspired by the "really smart and cool" comics that he discovered, he made a comic book of his own as his final project. At that time, Wood was concentrating on being an

artist, but he did all the writing as "a control thing," he said.

These days, Wood does all of the writing, but leaves the drawing to illustrators like Ryan Kelly.

Taking a series of Web site design jobs during the dot-com boom, Wood dropped out of the comic world for a few years. In 2000, British comic artist Warren Ellis offered him a writing job on Marvel Comics' "Generation X," a spin-off of the original graphic novel "X-Men." Although Wood worked on 12 issues before he returned to independent comics in 2001, producing several graphic novels and miniseries.

In 2003, Wood, by now his day job as a designer at Rockstar Games (the video game company best known for "Grand Theft Auto"), and learned with artist Becky Cloonan to create "Dem0," a monthly comic series that was the start of the single issue, "done-in-one" format that's all the rage in independent comics.

The "Dem0" format proved so successful that Wood went on to replicate it in his 12-issue series "Local."

"Local" differs from its predecessor in that it's set on a single street. Megan McKeeman, who is gradually traced through the series, even if she is not always the protagonist within each issue. This difference has led "Local" down its own path: Wood has created a "local" comic strip "done-in-one" format that's all about Megan's story, her life, that progression over time.

Each issue documents a local scene of some kind and always in a different town. In Local #6, for example, Megan finds herself sharing an apartment in Park Slope and bar-

See BRIAN WOOD on page 10



Win, lose or draw

Brian Wood's "Local" hit Park Slope a few weeks ago, and the comic book artist says that heroine Megan McKeeman lived in (left) wasn't based on a real house, plenty of the places where she hung out were. Test your Slope IQ by identifying these neighborhood spots:



ART

Fly by

For many visitors, the Brooklyn Bridge is a symbol for being stuck in traffic, but for the artists at the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists' Coalition (BWAC), a show beneath the bridge is all about flight.

"Still Flying," which opened on June 30, is the 25th annual outdoor sculpture show by BWAC, and sits along the DUMBO Waterfront.

The location inspired the aviation-themed show, said co-curator Ursula Clark. "The wind in that area supports movement and helps [enhance] the idea of flying," she said.

Metal artist Doug Maier's work, "Speeding II," pictured, fits in perfectly. His metal art, made from lawnmower and tractor blades and caught mid-flight, has the appearance of flying over the East River. What about the real, live birds in the park? "They might think it's a good place to land," he said.

"Still Flying" is up through Aug. 25 in Empre-Fusion Ferry State Park and the park at the foot of Washington Street in DUMBO. For information, visit www.bwac.org.

—Katie Newingtonham

BOOKS

Mature magic

The students of Hogwart's School of Witchcraft will be only the tens in the room at Word bookstore on July 20. While the shop is having a party to celebrate the release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the first book in the series, no kidder conjuring will be allowed.

"It's really the adults who are reading 'Harry Potter,'" Word owner Christy Orenstein told Oni Books. Word will also throw her store. Orenstein is hoping to give the expected 100 grown-ups a place to drink from her cauldron without having to dodge mini-Wolfsbane.

Adult fans like Judy Nylen, 65, of Sunset Park, are glad to have the chance to mingle and enjoy themselves outside of the all-ages events at other area stores.

"Every year at Halloween I have my own 'Harry Potter' costume," she said. "I'm just obsessed with it."

The Word party will take place at 11 p.m. on July 20 at Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint). Admission is free. For information, call (718) 383-0096.

MUSIC

Soul patrol

The McCarron Park Pool usually draws a crowd for its rockin' rock shows. But on July 15, the venue's organizers are banking on Brooklynites showing up to something just a bit different.

Making its New York City debut, the six-year-old "Ponderosa Stomp" is a celebration of "American roots music" — an umbrella term for jazz, country, reggae and soul that led to early rock 'n' roll. Unsung heroes including Tommy McClain (pictured) — all influential, if not widely known — will perform alongside members of Yo La Tengo.

The event's founder, Dr. Ike, knows that Brooklynites might be resistant to these old-school sounds, but he's hoping open hearts and ears focus with something they like.

"The whole idea is to educate the public about the contributions and effects on American culture of these great pioneering musicians," Ike told GO Brooklyn. "Ponderosa Stomp" will take place at 3 p.m. on July 15 at the McCarron Park Pool (Lower Street at Bayard Street in Williamsburg). Admission is free. For information, call (718) 302-5050.

—Sarah McCormick

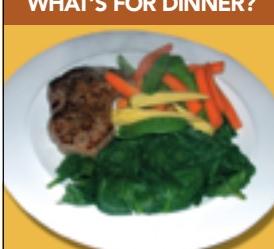
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I Hate Margarita Mix!

By Darrin Siegfried

There I said it, loud and clear. I hate Margarita mix. Now I know, I sound cold. Margarita mix just up salt the rim please. It's one of my favorite cocktails and one that becomes even more popular when the weather gets hot. It's got all out being overpowering, refreshing, and has a delicious balance of sweet and sour that keeps you coming back for one more sip. But make a Margarita with one of the mixes and you end up with something other than a Margarita. So here's what you need to read the list of ingredients on the Margarita mix package and ask yourself if you really want to put that chemical swill into your body.

Like all classic cocktails that have lasted over the years, a good Margarita is fairly easy to make. Here's a favorite recipe from my friend Dale Dapprich. Dale is known as "The King of Cocktails" and is the author of "The Craft of the Cocktail," the finest book that I know of on the Bartender's bookshelf, amateur and professional alike.

The Original Margarita

1 1/2 oz. 100% blue agave plata Tequila
3/4 oz. freshly squeezed lime juice
1 1/4 oz. Cointreau

Shake together all ingredients with fresh ice cubes in a cocktail shaker until chilled, about a count of ten. Take one of the lime rounds and run the rim of the edge of a cocktail glass and carefully avoid the rim of the glass, or you'll have salt in your drink! Dip the edge of the glass into Kosher salt (iodized table salt just won't work) so that half of the outside edge of the glass is coated. Strain directly into the glass.

Smooth? Yes. Delicious? Absolutely! There's one very important rule to follow: use good ingredients, starting with the Tequila. During the days of Prohibition bartenders had to be wizards, since the liquor stores had closed and the bars were already pretty bad. The law kept most of the "real" booze from getting into the country and locally made all there was. Making a good tasting drink from this was an art, and many of the best tasting drinks today come from those old days. These we have a wide selection of liquors available to us at reasonable costs, start with good alcohol. True Tequila is made from 100% blue agave. Most of the commercial brands use the bare minimum of 51% agave

required by Mexican law, with the remaining 49% nothing more than cheap grain spirits. Most of the cheap Tequila made in the US is really nothing more than artificially flavored Vodka, with no agave at all used in making it.

My choices of choice for a Margarita are Centenario Plata, Herradura Silver and Patron Silver. Plata, or Silver, is unaged Tequila. It is clear in color or may have a faint greenish cast. Añejo is slightly aged, traditionally in wooden barrels, but more recently in stainless steel. The aging requirement of only six months or aging in barrels hold their Agave flavor. These will have a light smoky taste, still good for a mixed drink. The oldest, darkest and most flavorful Tequila is labeled Reposado, and is aged the longest. I don't use Reposado for margaritas because it's too strong for the way I would a fino brandy; sipped slowly after a meal, no lime or salt, thank you.

Like all classic cocktails that have lasted over the years, a good Margarita is fairly easy to make. Here's a favorite recipe from my friend Dale Dapprich. Dale is known as "The King of Cocktails" and is the author of "The Craft of the Cocktail," the finest book that I know of on the Bartender's bookshelf, amateur and professional alike.

Nothing goes fresh fruit juice for making a Margarita. You must compare. Buy your own juice: taste a bottled lime juice (or a mix) next to the real thing and make up your own mind. Limes have become very affordable over the past few years, so buy a bagful for a party, don't buy a whole week's worth of dollars. Peeling down firmly from the edge of each lime, roll it back and forth on a counter or table top. This will help to break up the cells inside the fruit and will yield more juice, and use a juicer to squeeze the juice out, not just your hand. A simple wooden citrus reamer can be picked up at a housewares shop.

I think that you'll agree, a well-made Margarita is a delicious drink, and it's really simple to make an authentic one: no mix required!

Photo © Darrin Siegfried

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DINING

Le Baricou (535 Grand St., between Atlantic and Flatbush Aves., in Williamsburg) accepts cash only. The restaurant serves dinner daily from 5:30 pm to 10 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 11 am to 11 pm, Saturday. Entrees: \$28-\$34. Subway: G, L to Lorimer Street, R to Nostrand Avenue. Call (718) 782-7372.

Trois Pommes Patisserie (260 Fifth Ave., between 45th and Park Slope) accepts cash only. The bakery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 7 am to 6 pm, Thursday and Friday from 7 am-10 pm, Saturday, from 8 am-10 pm and Sunday from 8 am-6 pm. Desserts: \$3-\$5. Call (718) 230-3119. For more information, call (718) 230-3119.

fine ingredients. The tender crust on her fresh, seasonal fruit pies is made with butter, sugar, shortening and no artificial flavors are employed in anything. When chocolate is called for, only the rich, French chocolate Valrhona will do.

In addition to the popular pies, Issi makes a variety of pastries and cookies as well. Need something else? Ice cream is made in-house with fruits and herbs from the Grand Army Plaza greenmarket — and the tastes of the produce shine through. Flavors like lavender, mint, blueberry, fresh mint chocolate chip and butter caramel crunch are swoon inducing.

Pair a slice of the cherry pie with a scoop of house made blueberry sorbet, add a cup of the Gorilla coffee that they serve and dig into a perfect Bastille Day treat.

Across town, Jean-Pierre Marquet, who started a revolution of his own with Marquet Patisserie in 1987 on then-tougher Smith Street, is celebrating at his new bistro, Le Barricou.

"It's like Paris here," Marquet said of his Williamsburg locale. "People like to leave for vacation."

For more-resistant types who linger in the neighborhood, Marquet said that his partner and chef Joab Masse (formerly of Balthazar and Lutèce), "will be cooking traditional French food" for the holiday. In the 2,500 square foot space there's plenty of room at the expansive bar to linger over Masse's globe-spanning, classic French, Latin and Asian menu.

"He's Spanish and he has worked in Thai kitchens, too," said Marquet of Masse, whose name is throughout the cooking." For a commemorative Bastille Day feast, there's escargot or grilled tiger shrimp with mango, avocado with spicy salsa tostadas. Osaké dressing, traditional coq au vin or Thai mussels in a red chili-coconut cream sauce. For dessert? Crème brûlée, of course. Toss on a few strawberries and blueberries and you've got an Independence Day special."

Vive la France!

Bastille bites

Let us eat cake — and a whole lot more — at this weekend's French holiday feast

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Paper

On July 15, Smith Street will look a lot more like the Champs-Elysées thanks to its annual Bastille Day celebration. Much of the street closes for an all-day (and well into the evening) celebration in honor of the storming of the Bastille in 1789, the symbolic beginning of the French Revolution. In Paris, the grand boulevard closes for a military parade up the avenue, and while Brooklyn might not do that, we can drink and feast with gusto.

The feast associated with Bastille Day is meant to honor the peasants who helped to oust King Louis XVI and his empathy-challenged wife Marie Antoinette, who were rumored to have gorged while the public starved.

In modern-day Brooklyn, there are two new French spots with chefs who are no problem solving, let them eat cake.

Emily Isaac, the former pastry chef at Union Square, opened her very French bakery Trois Pommes Patisserie in Park Slope this past May.

"I'm baking is American with a French twist," Isaac said to me. "I trained at the French Culinary Institute



Le Baricou: Sweeten your Bastille Day with tasty treats like the French toast at Le Baricou, top, or a pastry from Trois Pommes Patisserie, above.

in New York City, so my technique is based on their pastry making tradition.

Isaac's new shop reflects true Parisian style.

And just like the bakers in the City of Light, there's no skimping here on

tier, Isaac said. "Let's not forget the

French pastries.

With the same high ceilings, high ceilings and tremendous crystal chandeliers, Isaac's new shop reflects true Parisian style.

And just like the bakers in the City of Light, there's no skimping here on

Get baked

The revolving-door restaurant landscape on Brooklyn Height's Henry Street is difficult for even the most devoted foodie to follow. With restaurants opening and closing as fast as

Joey Chestnut's mouth, it's hard to figure the key to success on the high-rent street.

Chris Fehlinger, owner of Oven, the latest to open on the strip, thinks the answer is simplicity. Oven focuses on specialty pizzas and an extensive wine list — over 180 bottles and more than 40 half-bottles — making what Fehlinger calls "a pizza place."

The thin-crust pizzas range from old-time favorites to the inventive and a bit out there — but all go well beyond the traditional Margherita pie. A chicken curvy pizza is topped with cashews, bacon, pepperoni and mozzarella. Zucchini is in a zucchini-flavored pie to saute and topped with a yogurt mint sauce. An eggplant pizza is topped with an assortment of cheeses and pine nuts, a surprisingly crunchy and complementary combo. And there's even a roasted

asparagus pizza with Vermont goat cheese and oven-roasted Roma tomatoes, served on a creme fraiche base.

Fehlinger wanted to open a restaurant that could be a quick stop for a quick meal and a destination for the weekend dinner. While most pizzas are about \$13, those looking to splurge can dish out \$30 for the Kobe steak pizza drizzled with truffle oil and topped with truffles.

With a wide variety of wines to choose from, it's best to get some help.

Fehlinger has a "sommelier in training"

on staff to help pair the perfect pizza and wine combination. In the meantime, however, don't be afraid to try.

Oven (60 Henry St., at Cranberry Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Lunch approximately \$12. Dinner approximately \$15-\$17. The eatery opens Tuesday through Saturday 11:30 am-3 pm and 5:30-11 pm and Sunday 5-10 pm. Subway: A/C to High St. or 2/3 to Clark St. For information, call (718) 468-6836 or visit www.oven-ny.com.

— Julianne Burin



The Brooklyn Paper / Daniel Krieger

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Bed(Stuy)& breakfast

A local love shack makes the perfect weekend getaway

By Danielle Douglas
for The Brooklyn Paper

Enjoying the ambiance of a quaint inn in a far-flung paradise would be great, but if you believed that you could have the same type of romantic adventure in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Nestled among the brownstones of a neighborhood where you might least expect it is an opportunity for a romantic in-town getaway, Akwaaba Mansion.

The building, an 1860s Victorian mansion, fell into disrepair until 1995 when Monique Greenwood and her husband John Pogson, who lived down the street at the time, purchased it with the intention of replicating a B&B they had visited in Cape May, New Jersey.

After a nine-month renovation that cost close to \$100,000, they opened Akwaaba — which means "welcome."

In Twi, one of the languages of Ghana, the inn offers four rooms decorated with African textiles and Victorian antiques, as well as a library, courtyard and glass-enclosed porch.

"In the mid '90s, there were no major tourist attractions in Brooklyn," says Greenwood. "But what we quickly learned is that there's a lot of people who live in the neighborhood as they came to visit."

"Greenwood told GO Brooklyn, "But what we quickly learned is that there's a lot of people who live in the neighborhood as they came to visit."

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"But what we quickly learned is that there's a lot of people who live in the neighborhood as they came to visit."

"Greenwood told GO Brooklyn,



Room, not bored: The "Jumping the Broom" room, above, at Akwaaba Mansion in Bedford-Stuyvesant, is one of the four themed rooms that the bed and breakfast has available.

European visitors have stayed at Akwaaba than in years past, Greenwood said. "It's because Brooklyn is the borough where everybody wants to be."

But whether they're from near or far, couples are becoming the majority of guests filling the rooms.

"We get quite a few local couples that come to celebrate wedding anniversaries or spend their wedding night with us before leaving for their honeymoon," she said. "We've even

had a number of proposals."

Chris and Sara Evans, who recently visited Akwaaba, were delighted by its amenities. "It's a very charming bed and breakfast," said Sara. "The candles and the rose petals were such a nice touch."

In response to the inn's popularity, Greenwood and her staff now offer a variety of services to heat up a weekend. "We offer a turn-down service; we draw their bathwater and place candles

See AKWAABA on page 10

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www.brooklynbridgepark.org/pool



What's inn

Akwaaba Mansion might be a romantic spot for a weekend getaway, but when you're booking a room for mom and dad, it's also good not to think of such things. Sure, anything's better than out-of-towners staying with you, but as long as brownstones are being bought up and renovated across the borough, you might as well put your visitors in one of the finest.

The Awesome Bed and Breakfast (136 Lawrence St., at Washington Street in downtown Brooklyn) is located in the Brooklyn Bridge and offers themed rooms like "Gothic Nights" and "Ancient Madagascars" from \$130 per night. For information, call (718) 838-4859 or visit www.awesomedb-and-breakfast.com.

The Bed and Breakfast on the Park (113 Prospect Park West, between Sixth and Seventh streets in Park Slope) offers upscale accommodations — one room even has a private rooftop garden — but

keeps guests close to the Park Slope action from \$165 per night. For information, call (718) 499-6115 or visit www.bb-on-the-park.com.

The Union Street Bed and Breakfast (405 Union St., between Smith and Hoyt Streets in Carroll Gardens) has six rooms, all of which come with cable TV and a hearty breakfast — but being this close to Smith Street's restaurant row, guests won't have a shortage of places to eat.

Rooms start at \$150 per night. For information, call (718) 852-8406 or visit www.unionstreetbb.com. Adam Rathe

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BROOKLYN

Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara V. Cowan

BAY RIDGE
Kitty Klemans's
 718-238-0217, www.kittyclemans.com
 July 14, 10 pm.

The Salty Dog
 5415 Fifth Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-9250, www.saltydogbar.com. Wednesdays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

The Wicked Monk
 5415 Fifth Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-9250, www.saltydogbar.com. Tuesdays: Philosophically Pint Tuesdays, an open discussion, 9 pm; FREE. Wednesdays: Game Night (Cash Flow), 7 pm, FREE.

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT
Food 4 Thought
 445 Marcus Garvey Ave. at Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 434-7160. Saturdays: Food 4 Thought, 7 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: Porch Beer, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, FREE. Fridays: Game Night (Cash Flow), 7 pm, FREE.

BOURKES HILL
Hank's Saloon
 101-15 84th Street in Bourkes Hill, (718) 235-8000, www.expitlive.com.hankssaloon.com. Sundays: Sean Kershaw and New Jack Rap, 7 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE. Fridays: Wednesdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Bourkes Hill, 9 pm, \$10. Birthdays: with Ninth House, 10 pm, The Sky Band, 11 pm, FREE. July 15: The Radios, 9 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Bourkes Hill, 9 pm, FREE. Fridays: Karaoke, 8 pm, FREE.

BRIGHTON BEACH
National Restaurant
 271 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Second Street in Brighton Beach, (718) 226-2222, www.nationalrestaurant.com. Saturdays: Live Russian music and dance show, 9 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Fridays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Live Russian music and dance show, 9 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Fridays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Magnetic Field
 97 Franklin St. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-0099, www.magneticfieldny.com. Sundays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Mondays: Magnetic Field, 7 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Wednesdays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Fridays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Sundays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Mondays: Magnetic Field, 7 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Fridays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Magnetic Field, 9 pm, \$10.

BUSHWICK
Silent Barn
 117-19 Franklin Street in Bushwick, No phone. July 14: Print, Shearing Print, from Cocaine to Rubber, 7 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: (Re)Birth, 20, 7 pm, FREE. Turbo Flux, The Coathangers, Goldene Trangle, 8 pm, \$10.

CLINTON HILL
Grand Dakar Cafe
 285 Grand St. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 399-6666, www.barsatclintonhill.com. Saturdays: (Spirited) Sylex with DJ sets by Dakar, 8 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Kings of Coko with Koko of Coko, 9 pm, \$10. Fridays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: (Spirited) Sylex with DJ sets by Dakar, 8 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Fridays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: (Spirited) Sylex with DJ sets by Dakar, 8 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10. Fridays: Open discussion, 9 pm, \$10.

FLATBUSH
Vox Pop
 1022 Cortelyou Rd. at Stratford Road in Flatbush, (718) 460-2084, www.voxpopnyc.com. Tuesdays: Dumbass' Symmetric Orchestra, 12 pm, FREE.

FORT GREENE
Mal's Cafe
 101-15 Franklin Street in Fort Greene, (718) 384-1000, www.malscafe.com. Tuesdays: King of Dumbass, 7 pm, FREE. Thursdays: (Un)stable, 8 pm, FREE. Fridays: Madhouse, Nasty Love, Uncleverb, 9 pm, \$10.

GLEN COAST
Night of the Cookers
 767 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 797-1197. Saturdays: Late, 12 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Late, 8 pm, FREE. Fridays: Live jazz, 10 pm, FREE.

GUTHRIE
Perch Cafe
 345 Fifth Ave. at 5th Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 283-2952. Fridays: Meet and Mingle, 11 pm, FREE.

INDIA
Puppet's Jazz Bar
 215 Columbia St. at First Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2627, www.puppetsjazz.com. Tuesdays: Open house, 7 pm, FREE. Fridays: Red Bull, 8 pm, FREE. Saturdays: Brooklyn Conservancy presents Brooklyn Baller's Take Ballet to the Streets, 7 pm. Program is followed

JALOPPY
 315 Columbia St. at Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 283-2952.

LAI LAI LOUNGE
 113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 283-2952, www.lailalounge.com. Tuesdays: Blueberries Tuesdays, 9 pm, FREE. Wednesday: Lai Lai, 9 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE. Fridays: Saturday's Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

MAGNOlia
 295 Douglass St. at Third Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 283-2952. Tuesdays: Open house, 7 pm, FREE. Fridays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10. Fridays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10. Fridays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10. Saturdays: Open house, 7 pm, \$10.

MELT
 440 Fourth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 283-2952.

PERCH
 345 Fifth Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope, (718) 283-2952. Fridays: Meet and Mingle, 11 pm, FREE.

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 215 Columbia St. at First Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2627, www.puppetsjazz.com. Tuesdays: Open house, 7 pm, FREE. Fridays: Red Bull, 8 pm, FREE. Saturdays: Brooklyn Conservancy presents Brooklyn Baller's Take Ballet to the Streets, 7 pm. Program is followed

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Take That
 113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 283-2952. Tuesdays: Blueberries Tuesdays, 9 pm, FREE. Wednesday: Lai Lai, 9 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE. Fridays: Saturday's Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

ZEBULON CAFE
 256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000, www.therazorbarr.com. Tuesdays: Open house, 7 pm, FREE. Fridays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE. Saturdays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

ZEPHYR
 221 N. Ninth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 283-2952, www.zephyrnewyork.com. Fridays: Friday Funday, 10 pm, FREE.

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The Play's the Thing
with Ed Shakespeare

The plot thickens

“WHAT'S DONE CAN'T BE UNDONE” IS AN apt way to describe the 1951 season for Brooklyn Dodger fans.

The Dodgers had a 13-1/2-game lead on August 12, yet wound up tied with the Giants for the pennant and lost the final game of a three-game playoff when on Bobby Thomson landed his famous ninth-inning, three-run homer off Ralph Branca.

Heartbreaker.

On Sunday, Branca and Joshua Prager, author of “The 2006 Giants: The Untold Story of Bobby Thomson, Ralph Branca and the Shea Home Run World Pantheon,” visited Keyspan Park, where both Branca and Prager threw out first pitches.

Prager's highly acclaimed book examines the details behind a Giants home run which back-up infielder Hank Schenz and coach Herman Franks were armed with a telescope in the centerfield clubhouse of the Polo Grounds. Franks and Schenz read the ball's elevation, color and then threw a marker to signal the upcoming pitch to the Giants' dugout, where it was relayed to the batter by a voice-over.

Prager's tone meticulously documents that the Giants used the telescope to steal signs. Numerous signs align the scheme, Thomson included.

What's still somewhat in doubt is whether or not Thomson knew what pitch was coming on Branca's final delivery of the 1951 season — but it is apparent that the Giants would have even been in the playoff if not for the sign-stealing.

Branca did not mention the Giants' spying for decades, but he doesn't seem to be thought of as being a sore loser or an excuse-maker. He was only 25 at the time of Thomson's homer, and to a brilliant start to his career. But the home run in ways other than expected.

At the time, Branca was on a result at Keyspan Park, he explained just what happened as a result of Thomson's blast.

“The next spring training, I hurt my back [after slipping in the locker room]. This was the last game of the season after it, I pressed to make go, even though he had one. And I pitched with a sore arm twice, which was really stupid.”

Although Thomson's homer essentially ended Branca's Brooklyn career, he won 70 games by the time he left, and he has many memories of his Brooklyn years.

“Brooklyn has a special place in my heart,” recalled Branca. “The fans were the greatest. They understood the game and respected the opponents.”

During Branca's Brooklyn days, there was a special connection between the former players, who lived in the same neighborhoods.

“[Carl] Erskine would say that if he pitched a good game, he would be home and there would be a roast there that the butcher delivered because he [Erskine] was doing a good job. It was a different era.”

While good memories are a part of Branca's book, the essence of the search is a harsh reality — that a telescope and a nefarious plan formed the core of the Giants' pennant run.

And silence only made things worse.

“It took five years to tell the life story of Branca's life and to explain what happened in the 1951 Playoffs,” confirmed something that had been rumored for years, that on July 20 [in 1951], the Giants had instituted a very sophisticated sign-stealing.”

“It was nefarious!” injected Branca, happy to openly speak of the long-hidden, but previously undocumented, action.

On Sunday, Branca got a chance to settle another pitch-albeit ceremonial.

He bounced his ball and it was a no-no. After all, the only reason Branca was on the mound to deliver a pitch to Thomson was because Erskine had bounced a ball when warming up in the bullpen alongside Branca. Bullpen coach Clyde Sukeforth told Dodger manager Charlie Dressen, and Dressen told Branca to believe Bob Newcombe.

Now of course, that has become his pitch 56 years earlier...

...Ah, but what's done is done...

CHANNELING THE BARD

Each week, Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, will take a page from his ancient ancestor and add a bit of iambic pentameter to all our lives. This week's contribution is called, “The Pitch Before the Pitch.”

Clyde Sukeforth spoke upon the bullpen phone, Don't worry, we spent a lot of time on that hook.

“Who's on top?” Dressen said in a smug tone.

So Suke quickly took just one more look.

Carl Erskine — bullpen choices threw, The skipper's only choice within that pace.

Coach Sukeforth helped him along, but he knew His job was to help him to send out our page.

“Osk bounded a curve into the dirt,” said Clyde.

Now Bobby Thomson's walking to the plate,

And Charlie Dressen, nowhere left to hide.

The rest, what happened, was it only fate?

Sadly, the game was never more fun.

“That pitch? It was the best I ever threw!”

Good God above, Osk has to thank ya — wow!

But for that curse, he'd be Ralph Branca now.

Ed Shakespeare has been covering the Cyclones since their inaugural season in 2001. His book, “When Baseball Returned to Brooklyn,” is a treasury of that championship season and is available at Amazon.com.

Photo: AP Wirephoto

BROOKLYN BRIEFS



Hamilton Av bridge work all summer

But no problems yet reported on key span

By Nicholas Sabloff
for The Brooklyn Paper

Gowanus Canal span the most traffic in the Gowanus Expressway from the Slope to Carroll Gardens, has so far caused few traffic problems since beginning on June 30, even though half of the bridge's eight driving lanes are closed.

The current roadwork, which is part of the Department of Transportation's \$55-million reconstruction of the 65-year-old bridge, is scheduled to last through Labor Day.

The bridge transports an average 45,000 vehicles a day across the Gowanus Canal, according to DOT figures.

With the entire northbound section of the 546-foot-long bridge closed for construction, the daily traffic flow has been reduced to two lanes in each direction, the southbound portion of the bridge, except during morning rush hour, when three lanes are open for both northbound heading traffic.

Despite what could have been a major upheaval, cars were moving steadily along the bridge in both directions during morning and evening rush hour last week.

"It's pretty nice, actually," said Traffic Agent Louis Ortiz, who arrived at 7 a.m. last Monday and spent 12 hours directing traffic.

Next summer, the traffic pattern will shift to allow the reconstruction of the southbound portion of the bridge. The entire reconstruction project, which will widen traffic lanes among other improvements, is scheduled for completion in January 2009, according to DOT officials.

For now, any inconveniences suffered by motorists haven't proved serious enough to merit complaint, according to Craig Hammerman, district manager for Community Board 6, which covers neighborhoods on both sides of the bridge.

"We would have heard by now if it was a major problem," Hammerman said.

The ice cream man cometh

Brooklynites welcome a free ice cream treat

The Brooklyn Paper

The popular "Ice Cream Man" finally did Brooklyn last week and everyone from our famously doting Borough President to steamed kids to coffee-holics loved him.

Matt Allen, along with his 1997 Olympic ice cream truck "Beep," was spotted dishing out Pink Panthers, Good Humor Bars and Drumsticks to passers-by all over the borough. He snapped photos with Marty Markowitz at the Beep's "Camp Brooklyn"

summer send-off on July 2, doled Neapolitan to sweaty competitors at McCarron Park pool and set up shop in front of the Superhero Community Park in Prospect Park. Shoppers, I mean, by evening.

Allen claims to have a pretty mean sweat tooth. What a bad thing for a thirtysomething guy who spent the last three years driving around the country giving away free treats. His goodie handout total of 500,000 frozen treats. Currently, Allen claims to be hovering somewhere around 90,000.

"The bigger picture is to inspire and motivate young people to get out and do well," Allen told The Brooklyn Paper, while slinging ice cream at Fifth Avenue and 38th Street last night in Prospect Park. "I'm not trying to be coy. I'm showing that they can do things that are non-traditional and fulfill your dreams."

Allen is able to pull off his venture because of his sponsorship. A big Levi's sticker is prominently displayed on the side of his truck and The White Stripes created a cardboard ice cream holder with a picture of

their face on it.

With such backing in place, Allen set out to put a face to the term "Ice Cream Man."

"He had a face attached to him," Allen said. "I decided to make myself that guy. If we can do that then hopefully through branding, merchandising, and marketing, we can be a brand."

Not surprisingly, Brooklynites were skeptical of the freebie.

"The first thing everyone asks is, 'OK, why is it free?'" said Allen. "It's like, 'What's the catch?'"

—Juliana Bunim



Matt Allen has been traveling the country in his ice cream truck and giving out free treats.

Police arrest Rev. Billy for harassing them

By Dana Rubinstein
for The Brooklyn Paper

Windover Terrace-based performance artist Rev. Billy (a.k.a. Bill Talen) demanded on Friday, July 6, that charges against him be dropped, following his arrest for allegedly harassing police during a gathering of cyclists in Union Square Park.

His crime? Reciting the First Amendment to the Constitution — the one, ironically, that guarantees free speech.

On July 2, Talen, who was staying the night in the Tombs as he is his partner, Savitri Durkee, recited the free speech clause during a July 29 gathering of Critical Mass, the monthly gathering of Critical Mass, the monthly gathering of

cyclists that has frequently sparred with police over the right to assemble (also guaranteed by the First Amendment).

"When I go to Union Square, my partner Durkee and I are the ones that speak to the police," Talen, who e-mailed The Brooklyn Paper from Reykjavik, where he is meeting with Icelandic activists.

Two men, Talen and the bakers, by

two to one, and were lined up military-style with their scooters and paddle-wheels and cruisers up and down the streets and around the square.

At the same time, a couple of police brass and watched them for a while, then went over and started shouting the First Amendment at them.

The pseudo-preacher joined Durkee

with his trademark white burlap and proceeded to, in his words, "broadside their [police] meeting" with his own recitation of the American Revolution.

"Durkee asked us to stand 20 feet away, and we complied, but they didn't quite understand how we both have training voices," he said.

Talen's message, he said,

that he was arrested.

The police do not dispute Talen's version of events (after all, a video of the dispute is available on YouTube). But the NYPD had a different take on the incident.

"The police were from their spot

where they were conducting a meeting [to avoid the noise]," said Lt. Pete Martin, a department spokesman. "They moved

from three different spots away from him, but he followed them with a megaphone — one of those deafening cheerleader megaphones."

The police arrested Talen that he could be arrested for harassment, and shortly thereafter, was.

Talen has enlisted First Amendment lawyer William Siegel, who contends that the arrest itself violated the First Amendment.

"The elements of harassment in the second degree were not met by Rev. Billy doing what he did in Union Square Park," said Siegel. "It's a violation of the First Amendment right to use the First Amendment."

Siegel will defend Talen during Rev. Billy's appearance in criminal court on Aug. 6.

Slope kids play on the digital sandlot

By Chris Casciaro
for The Brooklyn Paper

Sandlot baseball has finally gone 21 century.

That great ball field tradition of pick-up baseball — which school ballplayers from the days of Billie Ray Cyrus has been replaced in Park Slope with a little help from the Internet.

With organized Little Leagues done for the summer, local parent Dean Bell came up with a way of keeping the neighborhood's weepe David Wrights and Derek Jeters busy.

"My son couldn't believe the season was over so soon," said Bell. "I found this site so the kids can keep playing through the summer."

All the 5- to 7-year-olds, or

their parents, to do is register on a Web site to receive an e-mail telling them where the ball game will be that day.

Some neighborhood blogs have attacked at the sight, claiming that it kills the classic

sandlot games where kids meet up on their own.

"This is the way it has to be," said Bell. "There are weepees and kids 5, 6, and 7 years old. They're too young to be doing this on their own."

Despite the high-tech approach, the game remains in the spirit of pick-up baseball: whomever shows up plays, with teams divided up at random. Parents are still advised to stay out of the game and let the kids handle it (except for coaching and providing the bats and balls).

One major change: positions will be chosen out of a hat — a far cry from the easy-lakes-pitcher rule from the remote past.

Already, 38 ballplayers have signed up at the Web site, <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/>.

Andrea Siegel, a 10-year-old who would be participant named Dean was

going to play in a game.

"Game on Friday the 13th!"

his post read. By Thursday morning, no one had responded.



Play ball! Finally, the Internet is good for something: pick-up

HEALTH, MIND & BODY

Emergency care better at LMC

Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) has redesigned its Emergency Department, which has reduced wait times, increased patient satisfaction, and improved quality of care.

This was a massive overhaul of the entire emergency department that started three years ago when we expanded its physical space by nearly 60 percent," says Wendy Z. Goldstein, president and CEO.

"We're not only rebuilding, but redefining the emergency response process, we've dramatically reduced overall wait times, and most importantly, set a new standard for emergency care."

Lutheran, like many other N.Y.C. hospitals, has seen steady growth in its ED, resulting in increasingly long wait times. In response, the medical center assembled a multidisciplinary team to review and revamp the entire ED process with dramatic results. In fact, the average door-to-doctor time is under 30 minutes.

"We can't eliminate wait times altogether but we can make the experience as smooth and efficient as possible," says Charles Cane, COO. "So far we've added additional staff positions, new computer systems and implemented a Quick Care Program where thousands of patients are seen within 15 minutes or less."

Quick Care Program: LMC's new Quick Care Program has reduced wait times by 63 percent and is the first of its kind in Brooklyn. The program includes a dedicated physician assisting allowing patients to be seen and treated quickly and efficiently. Most patients are seen within 15 minutes.

Electronic Medical Records and Bedside Registration: LMC now uses Empower, the latest computerized information system that allows Empower to track patients and Bedside staff. Individuals often arrive at their doctor's office with an illness or injury that requires more serious attention. When this happens, doctors can call LMC's Patient Navigators with critical information, allowing ED staff to prepare in advance for the arrival of a patient who can benefit from immediate advice, medication, information, and other patient details in real-time.

Patent Navigation Program: A representative from every discipline and unit meet in the ED at 11 am each day to plan a day's strategy with the chief operating officer. Together they work to ensure that every patient that needs admission has a bed as quickly as possible.

ED Diploma Program: Lutheran has created a new program that uses its own software combined with ED data and hipaa compliant records, speaking to patients and family members to ensure that they are comfortable and receiving all the services they need in a timely fashion.

ED Green Room: A member meets and greets every patient who walks into the ED. Patients and families are provided with estimated wait times and regular updates. The greeter helps to ensure that patients are seen in a timely fashion.

Lutheran's Emergency Department treats more than 50,000 patients a year. Average wait times in the ED has grown steadily each year with 2007 year-end wait times expected to reach nearly 60,000. With a New York State recognized Level 1 Trauma Center and Stroke Center, emergency response standards are among the highest and include a full compliment of surgical and medical experts available around the clock, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

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The Brooklyn Paper **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

A collage of various business cards and advertisements for home improvement services, including contractors, exterminators, handymen, painters, and locksmiths.